

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01127 202152Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 CU-02 NIC-01 /063 W

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R 202120Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2257

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1127

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: TWO VIEWS FROM THE UNDERGROUND PRESS

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED TWO LEAFLETS WHICH ARE BEING CIRCULATED IN SANTIAGO BY WHAT, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, WE ARE CALLING THE UNDERGROUND PRESS. ONE, ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY A "GROUP OF FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) MEMBERS", IS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF PRESENT PDC LEADERSHIP AND FULSOME IN ITS PRAISE OF THE GOC. OTHER PROCLAIMS FORMATION OF A "CIVIC ACTION FRONT" TO OPPOSE "THE DICTATORSHIP" AND CALLS FOR FULL RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. WE SUSPECT AUTHENTICITY OF THE FIRST, AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SECOND, BUT THEY DO ADD TO WHAT WE SEE AS A GROWING UNDERGROUND PRESS. END SUMMARY

2. PAMPHLETS ENTITLED "THE DC AND JUSTICE" WERE DROPPED IN EMBOFF'S YARD IN BARRIO ALTO UPPER INCOME RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FEB. 13, APPARENTLY BY LOW-FLYING PRIVATE AIRPLANE. USING PDC PRES. AYLWIN'S LETTER TO SUPREME COURT ON FUENTEALBA CASE (SANTIAGO 0093) AS POINT OF DEPARTURE, LEAFLET CONTAINS STRONG CRITICISM OF PRESENT PDC LEADERSHIP AND SUCH PDC PERSONALITIES AS FUENTEALBA AND BERNARDO LEIGHTON. LEAFLET DECLARES THAT GOC SHOULD EXPEL SUCH TROUBLEMAKERS, THAT IT HAS ALWAYS RESPECTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01127 202152Z

INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY, THAT ALL OF ITS ACTS HAVE BEEN

LEGAL, AND THAT PDC LEADERS "WHO DEFRAUDED THEIR MEMBERS INSTEAD OF REPRESENTING MEMBERS' TRUE FEELINGS" DURING ALLENDE ERA BY SEEKING DIALOGUE INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION WITH MARXIST GOVT. SHOULD NOW SHUT UP. PAMPHLET IS ATTRIBUTED TO "A GROUP OF EX-PDC MEMBERS" AND SIGNED WITH INITIALS "U.N.A." (UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY); NO NAMES OF SIGNATORS ARE LISTED.

3. FEB 19 EMBASSY RECEIVED LEAFLET ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF A "CIVIC ACTION FRONT" ALLEGEDLY COMPOSED OF "STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, ARTISTS, INTELLECTUALS, MASONS, GREMIALISTAS, MEMBERS OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES, WORKERS, CAMPESINOS, WHITE COLLAR WORKERS, AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE TRUE PROFESSIONALS IN OUR ARMED FORCES -- WITH THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH". AGAIN, NO NAMES ARE LISTED. LEAFLET DENOUNCES PRESENT "DICTATORSHIP" AND ITS POLICIES, ESPECIALLY FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, LACK OF RULE OF LAW, LACK OF ELECTIONS, AND "CHAOTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION", LEAFLET DEMANDS IMMEDIATE DEROGATION OF ALL REPRESSIVE LAWS AND RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY, FULL LEGAL FORCE TO LAWS IN EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1973 (DAY BEFORE THE COUP), CONGRESSIONAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WITHIN 10 MONTHS, AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BEFORE JUNE 30, 1976. LEAFLET CALLS ON CITIZENRY TO REMAIN "SERENE AND VIGILANT".

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT AUTHENTICITY OF FIRST DOCUMENT, IT IS DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE FIRST WAS SPONSORED BY GOC. SECOND ONE REPRESENTS AT THIS POINT MORE WISHFUL THINKING THAN A GENUINE OPPOSITION FORCE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE CIRCULATING, ADDING TO OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE UNDERGROUND PRESS IN CHILE IS GROWING.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLANDESTINE PUBLICATIONS, UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA01127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750061-0667
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750227/aaaaaycm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO VIEWS FROM THE UNDERGROUND PRESS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006